

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for the preparation of polymers derived from acrolein and including poly(2-propenal, 2-propenoic acid), characterised in that the polymers are exposed to the presence of water, whereby such polymers exhibit increased antimicrobial activity. The polymers may be heated in the range of 40 to 150°C. Further, the polymers may be prepared in the presence of polyethylene glycols, polyols and/or alkanols.